

Clarkston Public Works Celebrates Grand Opening of New Facility

The employees of the Clarkston Public Works Department have a home! The facility, located at 3620 Montreal Creek Court, Clarkston, Georgia consists of 2,450 total square feet and includes, work and storage space, office space for the Public Works Director, Crew Leaders and the Quality of Life Officer, a staff training room and a break area. The entire facility is fenced and gated to house city equipment and vehicles. The Public Works Department



is responsible for streets, street signs, city building maintenance, storm water infrastructure, right-of-way maintenance and repairs and maintenance of the City's fleet of vehicles. The Public Works Department also manages city special sanitation pickups.



Clarkston Turns Georgia DOT Grant into New Sidewalks and Pocket Park

Clarkston residents who walk around town will notice something very different on Montreal Road between North Indian Creek and East Ponce de Leon Avenue. Gone is the 8 inch deep desire path that potmarked the heavily travelled thoroughfare that forced pedestrians into the street and the unattractive expanse of unneces-

sary pavement at the East Ponce de Leon corner. In its place is a freshly paved road, a new sidewalk and a beautifully landscaped pocket park complete with decorative benches and trash receptacles.

The city utilized \$147,000 in grant money from the Georgia Department of Transportation to make the improvements which will be done in two phases. In addition to the street paving, sidewalk construction and landscaping, the city has also installed several new ADA pedestrian ramps throughout the city. Phase II of the sidewalk project will entail replacing and widening of sidewalks on East Ponce de Leon from Montreal Road to West Smith Street.


City Streetscape and Pedestrian Enhancement Project Gets Underway

Streetscape improvements and pedestrian walkway enhancements will finally be coming to Clarkston. The project, made possible by a 4 million dollar Congressional Earmark the city received in 2005, will include various roadway infrastructure improvements to the East Ponce de Leon Gateway Corridor into

the heart of the community including Market Street; provide greater access to city activity centers such as Milam Park and Milam Pool and lay the ground work for increased economic development in the central business district.


After 6 years of non-activity regarding the project, the Clarkston City Commission selected AMEC, an international engineering consulting firm to prepare design plans in January 2014.





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The city was awarded a 2 million dollar loan by the State Road & Tollway Authority, the first government in Georgia to receive a SRTA loan, in February 2013 which will be utilized to cover the matching requirements of the grant.

The Mayor and Clarkston City Council have envisioned several goals for the streetscape project to include; turning nondescript roads into successful streets that create a sense of

place; creating a foundation and catalyst for civic and economic revitalization in the downtown area; create an attractive environment and positive tone to encourage business and consumer investment in the downtown area and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

The city has appointed a 20 member Streetscape Committee comprised of Clarkston residents and will be holding several public in-

formation open houses to solicit public input about the project design elements. The outreach program will involve intense coordination with local residents and business partners including a web site specifically dedicated for the project. The public outreach will also include bilingual translation. Anyone interested in following the progress of the project and providing input, is encouraged to visit the project website: VisualizeClarkston.com

Clarkston to Examine Use of Coin Operated Amusement Machines in City

The Clarkston City Commission has impaneled an Ad-Hoc Committee to examine the use of Coin Operated Amusement Machines within the city. Coin Operated Amusement Machines or (COAM's), which are allowed by state law, are prevalent in our community and, if not regulated properly, have the potential to become a public safety and public health problem. Conversely, several retail businesses in Clarkston depend upon the direct and indirect revenue that these machines provide.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on COAM's will be chaired by Councilman Robert Hogan. "I wanted to ensure that there was a fair and balanced examination of this issue and that the Ad-Hoc Committee had a well-defined process that would inform their work," stated Councilman Hogan. "We want to ensure that the community and the business owners have an opportunity to be heard regarding this issue."

The goals of the COAM committee are to:

- 1. Review current local and state laws concerning the legal operation of COAM's**
- 2. Receive expert testimony and information regarding problems or advantages associated with COAM's**

- 3. Understand the intent of the State of Georgia regarding creating a connection between COAM's and the Georgia Lottery Commission**
- 4. Receive information from the community via public hearings to understand public sentiment regarding the effect of COAM's, positive or negative, on the community**
- 5. Develop and deliver recommendations regarding any potential new or revised city ordinances affecting the operation and control of COAM's**

The committee held three (3) meetings over a course of two (2) months. The initial meeting was held on June 10th with the 2nd and 3rd meetings being held on June 17th and July 15th respectively. All meetings were held at the Clarkston Woman's Club, 3913 Church Street, Clarkston, GA. 30021.

For more information, please contact Keith Barker, City Manager at Kbarker@cityofclarkston.com



Planning Manager Completes Leadership Development Program

Congratulations to Clarkston's Planning and Development Manager Jason Gaines on completion of the Leadership DeKalb leadership training curriculum. He was one of 53 members of the Class of 2014, which began meeting for a series of program days in September 2013. He joins City Manager Keith Barker and numerous other public officials and community leaders as an alumnus of this valuable and prestigious leadership development program. For more information about Leadership DeKalb, visit their website at www.leadershipdekalb.org.

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Clarkston City Hall Annex Receives Historic Preservation Award

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation presented 24 awards recognizing the best of preservation in Georgia during its 37th annual Preservation Awards ceremony in Cartersville. The Clarkston City Hall Annex was chosen to receive an award for Excellence in Rehabilitation. "This year's winners represent a tremendous dedication to restoring and revitalizing Georgia's historic buildings and communities," said Mark C. McDonald, president of the The Georgia Trust. "We are proud to honor such deserving projects and individuals."



The house, previously owned by longtime Clarkston resident Ms. Mary Morris who passed away in late 2011, was built sometime in the 1850's. The house was purchased by the City in April of 2012 and renovated to provide additional office space. "The City's intent with this project was to not only provide adequate space for city administrative functions but also preserve the historic character of the property and building," states Clarkston City Manager Keith Barker. "The City realized the potential for the structure as an important community land-

mark and tried to maintain as much of the historical architecture as possible." The project was completed in June, 2013.

For more than 35 years, the Trust has recognized preservation projects and individuals throughout Georgia who have made significant contributions to the field of historic preservation. Awards are presented on the basis of the contributions of the person or project to the community and/or state and on compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.



City Considers New Sign Ordinance

On July 15th, the Clarkston Planning and Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed updates to the City's sign ordinance. This meeting will be the first of two Public Hearings that will allow the public an opportunity to comment on a variety of proposed changes to the ordinance. The Public Hearings are the culmination of a 5-month project led by City Staff, which included a stakeholder committee that was assembled specifically for the project.

It became clear that the current city sign ordinance needed revisions when multiple applicants were granted variances to allow for signs that exceeded size limits as provided by the current ordinance. "Whenever you have a regular, consistent number of variance requests coming forward, it is a strong indication that

there is something within our codes that is not working correctly," says Planning and Development Manager Jason Gaines. "With this in mind, we are certain that we can adopt a new ordinance that balances Clarkston's desire to attract new businesses and investment with the desire to maintain the City's quaint and esthetically pleasing character."

Following the July 15th Public Hearing, the City Council will discuss the proposed revisions at the July 29th Work Session. Barring any additional changes or other considerations, the second Public Hearing will be held at the August 5th City Council Meeting, at which time the Council will be able to adopt the revised sign ordinance.

For more information or to inquire about the project, please contact Jason Gaines via email at jgaines@cityofclarkston.com.

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Mayor George Baldesare

The City of Clarkston lost former Mayor and longtime resident George Baldesare, age 87, on May 25, 2014. George Baldesare lived in Clarkston for 44 years and began his public as a Councilman with his election on October 15, 1986. He served 10 years as a Councilmember and Vice-Mayor; chairing the Parks Committee and the Streets Committee and serving as a DeKalb Municipal Association president. He served 5 years as Clarkston's Mayor from April 8, 1996 until December 31, 2001.

Mayor Baldesare was a graduate of Tech High School and a WWII Veteran. He valued local public service, "Our City is important to our citizens because of the closeness of our community and the personal attention local government can offer." He kept to his personal goals for Clarkston, "To improve the lives of our citizens, we will continue our commitment to the beautification of the city, maintain our parks and provide our citizens with a safe and healthy environment in which to live, work and play."

His legacy will live on in Clarkston and in his 4 children; 6 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren.



Milam Park Pool

General Admission Costs

Milam Pool is now open for the 2014 Season. Residents may bring proof of residency in the form of a tax bill or utility bill to City Hall or to Milam Park Pool beginning on May 23rd to be issued a City of Clarkston residency card. This residency card will be presented to the front desk attendant and will allow the cardholder to be admitted to the pool at the resident rate.

Age	Resident	Non-Resident
1 and younger	Free	Free
2 – 17	\$2	\$3
18 – 59	\$3	\$5
60 and over	Free	Free

For more information on Clarkston Season Swim Passes, Swim Lesson, Group Swim or Rentals, contact City Hall at 404-296-6489 or visit our City website www.clarkstonga.gov

Pool Hours • May 24th – August 10th

Open Swim	Monday & Wednesday	11 am – 7 pm
Open Swim	Friday & Saturday	11 am – 6 pm
Open Swim	Sunday	12 pm – 6 pm
Adult Swim	Tuesday & Thursday	6 pm – 7 pm

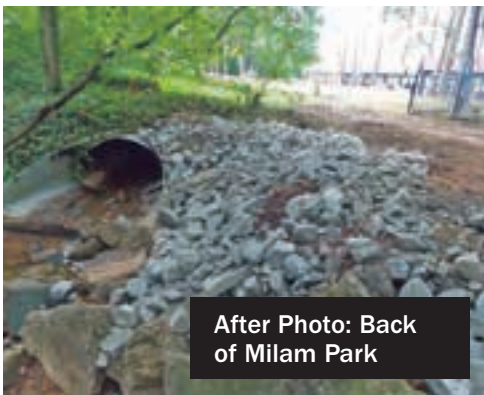
Pool Hours • August 10th – August 31st

Open Swim	Saturday	11 am – 6 pm
Open Swim	Sunday	12 pm – 6 pm

Pool Hours • Labor Day – September 1st

Open Swim	Monday	11 am – 6 pm
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Clarkston Public Works Storm Water Management Program



After Photo: Back of Milam Park



Before Photo: Back of Milam Park

Storm water refers to water generated by precipitation events as well as water from washing cars, irrigation, pressure washing, commercial activities, and other sources. The City operates under its MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit and Storm water Management Plan to maintain storm water infrastructure, address illicit discharges, provide public education, and prevent pollution. Inspecting, testing, monitoring, repairing, and planning are just some of the activities that go into our comprehensive storm water plan.

How you can help with the storm water management program?

- Be aware that many chemicals commonly used around the home are toxic. Select less toxic alternatives. Use non-toxic substitutes wherever possible.
- Buy chemicals only in the amount you expect to use, and apply them only as directed. More is not better.
- Take unwanted household chemicals to hazardous waste collection centers; do not pour them down the drain. Pouring chemicals down the drain may disrupt your septic system or else contaminate treatment plant sludge.
- Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground. Soil cannot purify most chemicals, and they may eventually contaminate runoff.
- Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergents.
- Use water-based products whenever possible.
- Leftover household pesticide? Do not indiscriminately spray pesticides, either indoors or outdoors, where a pest problem has not been identified. Dispose of excess pesticides at hazardous waste collection centers.

City of Clarkston Seeks Community Participation in Livable Centers Initiative Study Update

This past January, the City of Clarkston was one of eleven Metro Atlanta communities selected by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to receive funding through its Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program for Fiscal Year 2014. Clarkston was selected to receive \$80,000.00 of LCI Supplemental Study funding to develop a major update of its original LCI plan. Completed in 2004, the original plan's intent was to provide an attractive destination for private investment and redevelopment within the city that would serve both current and future residents, business owners and visitors. Major focal points included downtown (or "Town Center") revitalization and mixed-income housing that together would create an attractive "live-work-play" environment. Changes in the economy and real estate market have made it necessary to update the content of the original plan in a manner that fits today's market and provides a realistic opportunity for successful implementation.

The City has procured the services of a team of consultants lead by the firm Tunnell, Spangler and Walsh (TSW) to manage tasks leading to the completion of the Clarkston LCI Major Update project. "TSW is a locally-based firm specializing in land use planning, urban design and landscape architecture," says Planning

and Development Manager Jason Gaines. "They have a proven track record of developing LCI studies for communities throughout the Atlanta Region that have resulted in successful plan implementation. We are looking forward to their work on our LCI update and are confident that this project will be one that will be added to their track record of success," he said.

With the project management team now in place, the city is actively seeking interested residents and business owners to participate in the project by serving as project stakeholders. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to serve on a committee that includes the project management team and city staff. "Stakeholder involvement and input are key elements to successful planning initiatives," says City Manager Keith Barker. "Over the past year, we have been busy with multiple efforts aimed at boosting Clarkston's image and economic viability. Stakeholder involvement has been very important with those other efforts, and the LCI update project is no different in that sense. We need people who are vested in Clarkston and want to see the city grow to come forward and help us develop a plan that will guide the city into the future."

Those who seek more information about the stakeholders' role in the LCI update can contact Jason Gaines, Planning and Development Manager, at (404) 296-6489 or jgaines@cityofclarkston.com. More information regarding the project itself will be available on the city's website, www.clarkstonga.gov, as well on the soon-to-be-launched project website, www.visualizeclarkston.com.

Clarkston's Newly Elected Mayor and Council

On November 5, 2013 the citizens of Clarkston elected a new Mayor, Edward "Ted" Terry and two new Council Members, Ahmed Hassan and Robert Hogan to serve with Incumbent Dean Moore.



Mayor Terry has resided in DeKalb County for 8 years and in Clarkston for two years. His professional background is in Non-Profit Development Consulting. He is a strong advocate for the Clarkston Active Living Initiative and the Clarkston Green Team. Mayor Terry graduated from the first Clarkston 101 Class in 2013.

Goals for Clarkston: Clarkston is a city like none other. We boast an amazing array of diverse cultures, businesses and people. We're a neighborly city, we

know that by working together we can create the best community possible.

Together, with your support we'll build a Clarkston that is safer, greener and more prosperous. We'll create a community that celebrates our youth, opening doors for their futures. And together, we'll create a Clarkston that our residents will be proud to call home.

Personal Motto: You can't change the world, if you can't change yourself



Councilman Robert Hogan, originally from Newark, NJ, has resided in DeKalb County for 23 years and has called Clarkston his home for 3 years.

Robert Hogan completed his college education in Business Management and Marketing while under employment in the telecommunications industry.

During the faltering economy he found a passion for volunteerism and community involvement with non-profit organizations and local government. He served on the Clarkston Planning & Development Committee and also graduated from the Inaugural 2013 Clarkston 101.

Goals for Clarkston: By establishing committees, we can educate and organize our community with responsible representation and present our recommendations to the City of Clarkston and DeKalb County for resolution and support.

Additional Professional Information: Community Academy Course by the Clarkston Development Foundation, LIHEAP (Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program) clerk and site leader, 2010 graduate of the DeKalb Neighborhood Leadership Institute (10 months learning local and state government policies and programs) and Board member of Step Up in Georgia, Inc.



Vice-Mayor Ahmed Hassan is originally from Somalia and he is the first former refugee and new immigrant to take elective office in the City of Clarkston.

Ahmed Hassan has more than 20 years of corporate and small-business experience, an M.B.A. in finance from Mercer University of Atlanta's Stetson School of Business, and an M.A. in accounting and financial management from Keller Graduate School of Business.

Goal: The new vision for Clarkston is to support balanced and innovative development within the city of Clarkston and provide for future growth. To protect and strengthen the community development and neighborhoods while also encouraging innovative business and economic development that will broaden the City's tax base, create and retain jobs, and provide for high-quality life for our citizens that will enhance the quality of life in Clarkston both today and in the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The Clarkston Police Department strives to provide professional police services to the Clarkston community, thus establishing a safe environment for all who live, work, shop and play here. As our department moves into the future we will continue to implement strategies to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our community.

Our mission is to enforce all laws impartially, while maintaining the highest degree of ethical behavior and professional conduct. We will be a part of the community that has empowered us to serve. It is our desire to provide each and every person fair, professional, and competent service.

Parent Should Create "Family Rules" for their Child's Safety

Establishing a system of "family rules" about personal safety is a good way to teach children the difference between safe and unsafe situations. Many families already have rules about bedtime, TV watching and chores. By adopting rules about personal safety, parents can teach good habits through reinforcement and repetition without generating excessive fear. The following are some suggestions for personal safety rules that can be incorporated into a family routine. For the full list of child safety rules, visit our Police Facebook at www.facebook.com/ClarkstonPolice or the City website www.clarkstonga.gov.

Inside Rules

- Children should know their complete home address, telephone number including area code, and parents' first and last names.
- Children should be taught not to reveal any personal information about themselves or their family (their name, address, school) over the phone or to a stranger without a parent's permission.
- Have a "code" worked out with your children if you don't want them to answer any telephone calls but yours when they are home alone.

Outside Rules

- Know your children's routes to and from school, the playground, and best friends' houses. Insist that the children stick to that route, NO SHORTCUTS! If you have to look for the children, you will know where to begin.
- Children need to be taught never to go anywhere with anyone, on foot or in a vehicle, without parent permission. This includes getting permission a second time if plans change and calling home for permission to go to a different friend's houses or play location.

Bad Guy Rules

- Teach children that bad guys might act nice and even offer gifts of toys or money. Make sure that they know NOT to accept gifts from strangers.
- Teach children that bad guys are people who ask them to violate family rules, including someone telling your child that they don't need permission to get a ride home, or that it is okay to come into a house without mom's permission, or, "Let's keep this a secret."

Security Experts SafeWise List Clarkston among the 50 Safest Cities in Georgia

Home security experts SafeWise ranked Clarkston 44th in its list of the 50 Safest Cities in Georgia with populations over 5,000. The company based the ranking on findings from the FBI's "Crime in the U.S." report. Auburn, Ga., in Barrow County was ranked No. 1.

Here's what SafeWise had to say about Clarkston:

Located in the heart of the Atlanta metropolitan area, Clarkston provides the peace and quiet that people love about small towns just outside of major cities. Clarkston residents are committed to fostering a walking and biking community, a unique characteristic of the city's cultural makeup.

The city also promotes outdoor activities, including its new renovation of Milam Park, which is now equipped with all new playground equipment, bike paths, a dog park, a new swimming pool complex, an ADA walking trail, and a Wildlife Nature Preserve and Twin Lakes with fishing that is open to the public. Clarkston has everything you could ever love about a tight-knit, community-driven small town all wrapped up in one rich, entertaining package.



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"Lowest Prices on Water Heaters"

Posted prices in chart include Rheem heater, all parts, labor and hauling away the old unit. Add \$50.00 if expansion tank is needed. Add \$35.00 if you do not have a flexible gas line.

Rheem Fury 6Yr		Rheem Pro 8y		Rheem Fury 10yr		Rheem Pro 12Yr	
40 Gas	\$625.00	40 gas	\$775.00	40 gas	\$825.00	40 gas	\$975.00
50 Gas	\$625.00	50 gas	\$775.00	50 gas	\$825.00	50 gas	\$975.00
40 Electric	\$625.00			40 electric	\$825.00		
50 Electric	\$625.00			50 electric	\$825.00		

Rheem Power Vent. 6 yr.		Rheem Power Vent. 12 yr.		Rheem Lowboy Electric	
40 gas	\$1600.00	40 gas	\$1800.00	6 Year	\$975.00
50 gas	\$1700.00	50 gas	\$1900.00	10 Year	\$1175.00

Prices in chart are for installation in garage, drive up basement, or ground floor. Add \$35.00 to water heater price if your heater is located in basement, downstairs or upstairs. Add \$75.00 for crawlspaces and attics, add \$200.00 to price if you need a new (PRV) Pressure reducing valve installed.



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